

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-identified application, wherein Claims 1, 10, 11, 16 and 19 are independent claims. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed Claims 1-10 and 16-22. The Examiner objected to Claims 14-15 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but stated that Claims 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has rejected Claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Haberkern et al.* (US Pat. No. 4,633,323) in view of *Akai* (US Pat. Public. No. 2004/0204194) and further in view of *House* (US Pat. No. 6,991,289).

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a), the Examiner states that the combination of *Haberkern* and *Akai* discloses each and every limitation of independent Claim 11, except concedes that the combination fails to disclose “a barrier disposed behind the side speakers to prevent sound emitted from the side speakers from interfering with each other.” Rather, the Examiner relies on *House* for disclosing same.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 15, as set forth above. As such, it is believed that amended independent Claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Thus, without conceding the patentability of dependent Claims 12-14, *per se*, these claims are believed to be patentable over the combination of *Haberkern*, *Akai* and *House*, based on their respective dependency from amended independent Claim 11.



The application containing Claims 1-14 and 16-22 as now presented is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over a horizontal line.

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